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# THE INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

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## LETTERS FROM EIGHTEENTH CENTURY INDIANA MERCHANTS.

*BY CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN.*

THE following papers are from the Lasselle Collection in the Indiana State Library. They include the most interesting of the Early Indiana Miscellaneous Papers, I—in fact, all of any interest that are easily decipherable. They are given in chronological order.

The earlier papers need no comment other than the word of explanation joined with them.

Between 1785 and 1795 there are more papers. They show the condition of trade with some detail. These are the years when the English, after ceding all the west south of the great lakes to the United States, still retained possession of the northern part of this territory. Trade here was poor, and apparently becoming poorer. There was constant danger of losing all the export trade of the region to New Orleans. The Indians, at times, were an uncertain quantity and at times avowedly hostile. Many of the small merchants seem to have failed, and the large companies had difficulty.

It has seemed best, so far as possible, to give the original French where that was the language used, and join the translation immediately with it. One letter, that from John MacPherson to David Gray, in March, 1785, was printed in the June number of the magazine, but is reproduced here for the sake of completeness.

Miamie town was the precursor of the modern Fort Wayne; Ouiatenon was near the present site of Lafayette; the other names mentioned are, I believe, more familiar.

[Note of Vigoeiv to Drouet Richardville, Kaskaskia.]

je sousigne de ma marque ordinaire Devoir au Sieur Dedroit  
Richarville la somme de treize livre en castor ou pelterie que  
promes payer dans le cour de l'anée milsept cent trenteneuf au  
Kaskakia le 21 avril 1738

marque

X

DE LA VIGOEIV.

M. P. BEAULIEU,

temoin.

[Translation.]

I subscribe with my usual mark that I owe the Sieur Drouet Richardville the sum of thirteen livres in beaver skins or furs which [I] promise to pay in the course of the year seventeen hundred and thirty-nine at Kaskaskia. April 21, 1738.

mark of

X

VIGOEIV.

M. P. BEAULIEU,

witness.

[Sale of a negress at New Orleans, 1765.]

Ce jourdhui 31<sup>me</sup> jour de Juliet 1765 je sous signé declare avoir vendre et livré a Monsieur Bebecart une Negresse nommée Pegué agée de vingt cing ans ou environ pour le pris et somme de dix sept cent livres en letres de change a moy en main payées et dont je tiens quite mondit Sieur a la Nouvelle Orleans jour et an que dessus

JOSEPH CHALON.

[Translation.]

This, the 31st day of July, 1765, I the undersigned declare that I have sold and delivered to Mr. Bebecart a negress named Peggy, age 25 years or about that, for the sum of seventeen hundred livres [between \$310 and \$340] in letters of exchange in hand paid and for liability for which the above mentioned Sieur is released, at New Orleans on the day and year aforesaid.

JOSEPH CHALLON.

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[Receipt for account of Ambroise Dagenet, Vincennes, with A. Macomb, Detroit.]

Je certifie que Monsr. Ambroise Dagenej me devoit la Somme de Cent six Pontes trieze Chelins & neuf pence du Cours de New York pour arreté de Compte 19 Juin 1772 la quelle Somme il me paya le cinq de Juin 1773. Detroit 5 Juillet 1774.

L. Dejeunet I M Temvin

A. MACOMB.

[Reverse.]

Registré en [illegible] au poste vincennes le 9 d aout 1774  
Folio 18 PHILLIBERT, Notaire.

[Translation.]

I certify that Mr. Ambroise Dagenet owed me the sum of one hundred and six pounds, thirteen shillings and nine pence of the currency of New York for the settlement of his account down to June 19, 1772, which sum he paid me the fifth of June, 1773.  
Detroit, July 5, 1774. A. MACOMB.

[On the back.]

Registered at Post Vincennes, August 9, 1774.

Folio 18 PHILLIBERT, Notary.

[Note from Rocheblave, commander of Fort Gage, which the English built near Kaskaskia to take the place of Fort Chartres, to Mayon, a merchant, at Vincennes. The letter was written only twelve months before Rocheblave surrendered to Clark.]

Monsieur

vous m' aviez flaté d l'espoir de vous voir en ce pays. sans doute que la nature des afaires ne vous lá pas permis, j adresse votre billet a Mr. Legras a qui je vous seray obligé de le payer me trouvant tres géné. Je vous ofre volontiers mes services si je puis nous etre utile. Jay l'honneur d'etre bien sincerement

Monsieur

votre tres humble et  
tres obeissant serviteur

Fort Gage le 19 Juin 1777.

ROCHEBLAVE.

[Addressed.]

A Monsieur  
 Monsieur Mayon  
 negotiant  
 a St Vincennes

[Translation.]

Dear Sir:

You flattered me with the hope of seeing you in these parts. But not doubting that circumstances do not permit it I address your letter to Mr. Legras, whom I will thank you to pay as I am very hard up. I gladly offer you my services if I can be of use to you. I have the honor to be, sir, sincerely

Your very humble  
 and obedient servant,  
 ROCHEBLAVE.

[Addressed.]

Mr. Mayon,  
 Merchant,  
 St. Vincennes.

[Advertisement for stolen boy.]

Clarksville April 26 1783

Was taken from this place about the 18th of February Last a boy named John Scroggan about Eight years and one half of age of a fair Complexion pitted with the Small-pox he had Short fair hair Suposed to be taken by the Kickabouse or Windots if said boy be found a Reasonable reward Shall be paid by me

TOHMAS SCROGGAN.

[Account of McKay with Adhemar St. Martin.]

	McKay		
Miamis	a	Adhemar S. Martin	
1785			
Fevrier	6	5 lbs. $\frac{1}{4}$ Tabac a 6 lv.....	[31 10 torn out]
	9	5 lbs. Sucre a 30s.....	[ 7 10 torn out]
Mars	3	34 lbs. farine a 20s.....	34
		St. Vincenne sur une montre.....	[27 torn out]
May	13	4 Brides a 5lv.....	20

	16	1 au $\frac{1}{2}$ ruban a 20s.....	1	10
Juillet	3	1 chapeau laine.....	6	
	10	1 au ruban noir.....	1	10
	28	2 lb. $\frac{1}{4}$ savon a 40s.....	4	10
Avoust	5	2 lb. Castor a 3l.....	6	
7bre	9	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Thé verd a 24 lv.....	12	
				152l.

par compte avec M. hiacinte  
Laselle et Co<sup>ie</sup> En pelteries [?]. 90 15

242l. 15

	par compte avec Mr. L. Baby
	En argent.....27lv.
	a st vincenne le 6 <sup>e</sup> 8 <sup>bre</sup> 1785
	Mr. Lasell demande le port
	du payement jusqu' au mir
	par restant de compte.....12lv.
	par Mr. Le Fevre.....98 110

352lv. 15

[Translation.]

## McKay

Miamitown with Adhemar St. Martin.

1785

February	6	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. tobacco @ 6l.....	31	livres 10 sols
	9	5 lbs. sugar @ 30s.....	7	10
March	3	34 lbs. flour @ 20s.....	34	
		Vincennes, on a watch.....	27	
May	13	4 bridles @ 5l.....	20	
	16	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards ribbon @ 20s.....	1	10
July	3	1 woolen hat.....	6	
	10	1 yard black ribbon.....	1	10
	28	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. soap @ 40s.....	4	10
August	5	2 lbs. Castor @ 3l.....	6	
September	9	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. green tea @ 24l.....	12	

152 livres

By account with Mr. Hyacinth Laselle & Co., in peltries [?] . . . . 90	15
	<hr/>
	242l.
	15s.
By account with Mr. L. Baby in silver ..... 27l. at Vincennes the 6th of Octo- ber, 1785.	
Mr. Laselle asks for the carriage [charge] out of the payment to me [?] by the remainder of account ..... 12l.	
by Mr. LeFebvre ..... 98	110
	<hr/>
	352l.
	15s.

To David Gray,  
Merchant,  
at Miamie-town.

Detroit 23 March, 1785.

Dear Sir:

I embrace this opportunity to enquire about your Health, and the nature of times in that Country, what appearance of Trade. its said that there is a good hunt to the Southward I hope you will find the good effects of it, by its being in reality so. we have had here a very mild open winter, by no means reckoned favorable for the hunt. Indeed the equipers has reasons to expect but very Indifferent returns from the differant posts here abouts, very dull times in the fort, no business of any kind, either with the French or Indians, the only payment that can be expected for Goods is flour & corn this year, and I see no prospect of being able to dispose of it. the Contractors for the Mackina markett gets what corn & flour they want for Goods out of their own Shops, so that there's Scarcely any paper currency circulating. Mr. McKillep told me that you was a little indisposed when he past the Miamies coming in. I hope you soon got over it; the Measles raged here this season by which many Children died. L. Williams died with that or a Sort of Scarlet fever after Seven days Illness Andrew W.- Old Barthe has taken his de-

parture 14th Instant after about two months Sickness. You have heard undoubtedly of the Barbarous manner Christie & another Man was murdered at the River Rouge at young Cahossa's House by a Sagina Indian apitchi Gabavey his name & 2 Sons, in about a week after the same Indians killed P. Jacobs & one Guthrie - Jno. Dolton was going out with them & made his escape. Jacobs killed one of the sons in the fray. there's several councillls been held since with the other Indians to get them to bring the Murderers. they promise well but perform little. apropos what do you think of the Conjunction of the Six Com<sup>e</sup> [Company?] Houses into a grand Societie for carrying on the Indian Trade. time will discover more of the effects of that grand undertaking. its probable that they will not find their advantage in such an Union unless they can procure an exclusive right to the different posts. Whatever occurrances of the plan I write about it will be quite Stale to you, as you'll be better acquainted with them than myself. Mr. Geo. Meldrum is married to Miss Chapoton, Henry Ford to Miss Bella Andrews. there's 2 or 3 other young ladies closely besieged so that a Short time will bring a surrender. Robert McDougall is married to Miss Simonette Campau. The Gentlemen of the Garison keeps on good Sociall terms with the towns people & Major Ancrum seems to gain peoples esteem greatly by his justness & Impartiality. no news of any kind, no accounts from Niagara or Fort Pitt, in course no express from Canada. Now permit me to request the favour of you to lett me know what Mr. Rivard, La Breche, etc are doing. do my dear Sir endeavour to get Something from those fellows recommended to your care, as it will be very hard times with me next Summer. I have wrote you formerly about the way Mr. Ellice [?] got Grevarats & Visgars affairs settled, they are Sett up again and trades in partnership at Sagina. they are furnished with goods from Mr. Abbott & Grosbeck so that you will be able to come on for your money sometime or other. having nothing further to add - I remain - Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

JOHN MAC PHERSON

Prices Current  
flour per C. 60

Ind. Corne per Bushel 12  
 Oats per Bushel 8  
 Venison per Car. 32 all Winter  
 Beef per lb.  $\frac{1}{8}$  very Scarce.

[Receipt by Jacques Godfrey.]

Je Reconnoit avoir Receipt de Paul Gamelin un Billiet consenty par le sieur Francois Remaux de la somme de quarante et une livres en paux de chevreuilles recite [?] et un Dito du sieur Joseph Lamoureux de la Somme de cent dix sept livres dix sous en pelteris et trente huit livres en paux de chevreuilles a la des ouialtanont au oui le 23 avril 1785. pour m en faire payer sy je peux et Remettre les effet au dit sieur Paul Gamelin ou les dix Billiet

JACQUES GODFROY.

[On other side.]

Receipt a compte de [illegible] par Billet De Joseph Lamoureux par Louis Da Bois April 15, 1787

PAUL GAMELIN ET CIE

[Translation.]

I acknowledge the receipt from Paul Gamelin of a note signed by Sieur Francois Remaux of the sum of forty-one livres in deer skins [?] and another of Sieur Joseph Lamoureux of the sum of a hundred and seventeen livres and ten sous in peltry [furs] and thirty-eight livres in deer skins at Ouiatenon at the Ouia [Weatown] the 23d of April, 1785, to collect if I am able and send the effects to the said Sieur Paul Gamelin or the said notes.

JACQUES GODFROY.

[On the back.]

Received on account of [illegible] by note of Joseph Lamour-eux by Louis Da Bois. April 15, 1787. PAUL GAMELIN & CO.

[George Leith, Detroit, to David Gray, Miamitown.]

Private

Dear David:

It is now a long time since I had the pleasure of receiving a few lines from you; tho' at the same time I can assure you that it would afford me much satisfaction to hear from you when you

have a liesure hour. so I therefore beg you will write me a few lines upon receipt of this and let me know how your affairs comes on in the Indian Country as I sincerely wish you great success. I hope you will be able to get our adventure in Co. with you settled this summer & that it will turn out well, be that as it may ; I am well convinced you do every thing for the best.

Symington & Douglass of Niagara have been obliged to give up their Effects to their Crs. & Mr. Robertson of this place transacts their Business at Detroit. he showed me a few days, a very large account the Estate of Symington & Douglass has against you & was asking at me when you would come to Detroit I told him I was not certain but imagined you would be some time this summer.

You know very well what kind of a man *Robertson* is, therefore as a *friend* I would advise you not to come to Detroit this summer if you have nothing pressing to bring you in as he will do everything in his power to detain you & give you trouble.

We have wrote you & Ironside at this time along with the goods left last fall the numbers of which you have here inclosed & in expectation of hearing from you on receipt of this I remain with much regard

Dear David  
Yours Sincerely

GEO. LEITH.

Detroit, 3d April  
1786.

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray  
Merchant  
Miamis Town

[George Sharp, Miamis, to Paul Gamelin, Vincennes.]

Miamy, 23rd Juin, 1786

M Gamelin

Je viens recevoir quatre Balots de Detroit pour vous qui j'envoyé par cette occasion maqué P G No. 1, 2, 3, 4. J'ai recu aucun lettre de Detroit avec ils arriveront ici apres demain avec votre restant vous avez rien a payer pour les hommes, on vous a Chargé

ici pour la Portage. Excusez, comme je suis bien pressé. Croiez  
moi etre votre sincere ami

GEO. SHARP

Faiseur pour la Societé de Miamiy

Votre Merchandises sont de la Societé de Miamiy

[Addressed.]

Mr. Paul Gamelin, Neg[ociant],  
P. S. Vincents

[Memorandum note on back.]

7½ poudre pour Paul Gamelin.

[Translation.]

Miamis, June 23, 1786.

Mr. Gamelin:

I have just received four bales [packages] from Detroit for you,  
which I send on this opportunity marked P G No. 1, 2, 3, 4. I  
received no letter[s] from Detroit with [them]. They will arrive  
here the day after to-morrow with the rest of your goods. You  
have nothing to pay; you are charged here with transportation.  
Pardon, as I am very much hurried. Believe me your sincere  
friend,

GEO. SHARP,

Agent for the Society of Miami.

Your goods are from the Society of Miami.

[Addressed.]

Mr. Paul Gamelin, Merchant,  
Vincennes.

[Memorandum.]

7½ [lbs.] of powder for Paul Gamelin.

[From George Ironside, Miamis, to David Gray, Vincennes.]

Miamis 26th November 1786

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 11th. Currt. I received yesterday, & I assure you  
was glad to learn your safe arrival at the Ouias, but for god's sake  
dont pay a visit to the lads of the Vermilion as you did to those on  
this side of the Ouias, or you mayn't get so well off.

The Dog I have sent to Constant by his man & I dare say he'll

use him well as I never saw a man have a greater desire of anything than he had for the Dog.

The Flour I have secured for him & if any opportunity offers by water to the Ouias this fall I shall forward it, but there seems to be little appearance of any as the River here is frozen over. I'm afraid Mr. McIntosh's goods & those of the Company must winter here.

Tell Mr. McIntosh I would have sent him down his men by land, but I thought it better to wait eight or ten days longer, in expectation of the Water's rising, if they dont they shall be sent by land along w. those of Mr. Vigo as it serves no purpose to keep them here, while they may be useful to him at the Poste.

Colas [?] has been at Rochedebout & tells us Trimble & Steward arrived there from Detroit & report & by that time Meldrum was dead his horse having stumbled & thrown him & entirely bruised his stomach & carried away all the fleshy part of his sore leg.

Trimble is married to a young Irish girl by whom he got £ 1000 St[erlin]g to return to Ireland along w. David White next summer for good & all.

At Rochedebout the Indians report that the Americans are at Presquille [on Lake Erie] building large vessels, but as yet it is not known for certain.

There is not a bit of Sealing wax [?] in the house either for Constant or you or I should have sent it, it went all to the Poste last Spring

I am

Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

GEO. IRONSIDE

Mr. D. Gray.

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray

Poste St. Vincennes.

[George Sharpe, Detroit, to David Gray, Vincennes.]

Detroit, 18 Jany 1787.

Dear Sir,

Since my last nothing new has occurred here of any consequence.

I am hopeful my letters in answer to yours from Uhias [Ouia] are all received - and that you are now snugly settled at P. St. Vincents for the Season.

From the peaceable inclination of the Indians it is without a doubt that you can get safe up next Spring w[it]h your peltry - as it is intended to have a considerable Quantity of Goods at Miamis early next Spring. If any your eloquence with the French will prevent any of them from going to N. Orleans indeed I should think it not safe as in all probability the Spaniards will retaliate. I hope & request you will inculcate the best notions in their minds in this respect, it being the prime object. likewise they should all forward their Peltry uncommonly early next Spring, in order to have their assortments in time.

Please let me know what Quantity of Peltry Messrs Jos. S. Marie, Chapeau, & Janot may have next Spring. & if Mr. Makay be returned In my last I inclosed you a draft on F [?] B. Chapoton for £ 20 [illegible] for a Perroque I sold him which I hope he will pay — Likewise recommended it to you to take cognizance of every circumstance whatever wherein we were interested — In case Mr. Thomson or Makay should be absent when Criote returns from Cumberland I beg you will forward him immediately to Miami w[i]t[h] what he has got, if he should be unfortunate enough to return light please employ him to Miamis in some ones Perroque who will pay his wages & Dubois also —

Mr. Pollard and Mr. Sinclair are to sett off next week for P. Vincents I shall write by them, this is only a precarious conveyance. Neglect not in comp'y with the other Traders to send us an express early as everything will be done here to facilitate your affairs — News in my next.

Remember the main point, Gray, and no fear

I am Dr Sir Yours Sincerely

GEORGE SHARP.

Messr. L. J. Shepherd desire their respects

Mr. D. Gray.

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray Merchant

P. St. Vincents

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[George Ironside, Miamis, to David Gray, Vincennes.]

Miamis 16th Feby 1787

Dear Gray,

I am favored with yours of 3rd Ult. inclosing one for Sharp which after having perused I have forwarded to Detroit. The fate of Chapeau makes me uneasy about your getting clear of that Cursed Country, for God's sake if there is any risque be wary how you undertake the Voyage to the Miamis rather if you think, advisable, if there can be no communication by Detroit by the Wabache, send them to New Orleans. Macomb desires me not to forward McIntoshes Goods, they seem at Detroit to think of leaving off all Intercourse with the Poste, as the Company writes us the same thing respecting their Goods in the Store. However you'll not mention this to any of the Postiques as they would wish to hide this their resolution till they see if times Change.

You will soon have Steward [or Heward] at the Post, he is expected here daily, in the service of the Co. so that it seems Sharp does not mean to visit that Corner this Summer. Goods in all appearance will be very scarce here this summer. The winter here has been very unfavorable both for the work of the Village & the Indians hunt, the snow has not been upon the ground above Eight days the whole winter.

We have had a sort of a Dance here once a Week during the winter, which has made us pass our time pretty agreeably. — The Different Nations have sent an Embassy to Congress to desire them to rest on the other side the Ohio & upon these terms they would make peace w[ith] them, which terms if they dont accept, the Indians are no[w] holding Council Chez les Chats to advertise all the different nations upon the Mississippi to hold themselves in readiness early in the Spring to fall upon them & force them into a Compliance. Captain David setts off from there in two or three days to advertise the Chickasaws & Chocktaws & Cherokees.

I am Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

GEO. IRONSIDE

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray  
Post Vincenne

[From Geo. Ironside, unaddressed.]

Miamis, 27th. Febry 1787

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is a letter from G. Sharp which arrived here yesterday by an Indian from Detroit. Nothing new from that Quarter. Leith has sent me a few European News Papers & by all appearances the war between France & England is not very far off. Nothing else worth communicating.

Shall write you more fully at next opportunity.

I am Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

GEO. IRONSIDE

[George Ironside, Miamis, to David Gray.]

Miamis 4th. March 1787.

Dear Gray,

By Cola [?] who arrived here yesterday & sets off today with Adhemar [St. Martin] I embrace the opportunity to slip you a few lines.

In all appearance the Wabache will be scarcely passable this Summer unless early in the Spring. For God's Sake, as soon as you can, set off early from the Post or you will certainly run a great risque of losing your life Inclosed are some accts. all I have time to send you they are just going off.

Dr. Si[r]

Yourrs Sre

GEO. IRONSIDE

[George Ironside, Miamis, to David Gray, Vincennes.]

Miamis, 15th March 1787.

Dear Sir,

The Grandmaster is the Bearer of this, who is sent by the Company to transact their affairs at your place. I dare say he'll have occasion to use all his eloquence in their cause to prevent them from going to New Orleans.

Sharp will be here very soon & means to spend the Summer here.

Mr. Leith tells me that if Lorimier goes to Detroit the Major

will make him make restitution of the things he took of Joe, but I'm afraid he wont trust himself there.

I have searched all the house for Chorette's note of hand but cant find it pray if it is among your papers send it up. I mean to make an excursion his way as I hear he has got some property in his hands at present.

Mr. Stewart tells me the Major [Ancrum?] has express orders not to deliver up Detroit [to the United States], so that I dare say we shall soon have a general war. They expect news of Importance by the express from Niagara which was not arrived St. [mistake for When?] St. left Detroit.

Groosbeck is married to Miss Beufait & Rede is going to be married as soon as Rivard returns from the Ouias to Mad<sup>mle</sup>

Wishing a safe return

I am Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

GEO. IRONSIDE

Mr. David Gray

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray

Mercht

Poste Vincenne

[George Ironside, Miamis, to David Gray, Vincennes.]

Miamis, 15th April

Dear Sir,

1787

By people arrived here from the Poste I have the last accounts of you since hearing from yourself last January. They tell me you are in the River St. Francois in pursuit of Pierre. It is hard if, after so much pains you dont make something of him, & Alexander gives me some hopes. All Im afraid of is from the Wabache Indians in your way up, for Gods sake make information at the Poste before you set off as in all appearance there will be trouble there this Summer.

Bertheaume has made Sixty Packs as Im informed & will be here in a few days & here I have 21. The trade here is entirely stopt at present, they wait the arrival of Sharp for Rum 28 kegs

of which were sent up all at the same time & are now lodged in the Store so that little more can be made here this Spring.

The Delawares of the White River are all now settled at the Coms. Towns [?] & the Shawnees are going to have lands here so that the trade of this place will greatly augment.

I have got little or nothing of Joe but as he takes in his Credits he gives us them & asks for no goods.

The prices of Pelteries [peltries] is yet a Problem but Im afraid will not be much better than last year. The Company have not an ounce of Goods till they arrive from England & you'll see a scarcity this Summer of Indian Goods that has not been experienced in this Country for a long time.

No body has nor will undertake the trading of Rum which occasions that the best & better part of the Peltry will go to Rochedebout were it not for that we might yet make a few Packs here & if Sharp arrives here soon he'll have a *forte Affaire* to keep the Store from being plundered if he wont sell it. They say that as the Grand Master of the Rum is not here they cant insist upon people selling what is not their own but as soon as he arrives they think he will set up Indian Tavern in which he will be waiter.

Carleton is now Viceroy of British America. The Canadians on his arrival mounted him on a Throne which they carried in Triumph to the Castle of Louis crying long live the benign Carleton the father of Canadians.

Lorimier is fled from the face of his Creditors & gone to the Illinois may the Devil be his Pilot.

I have found a good friend in Maechat [illegible] & found him to be the man I thought him.

I am

Dr. Sir Yours etc

GEO. IRONSIDE

[Addressed.]

Mr. David Gray  
Merht  
Poste Vincennes  
Forwarded by Mr. Alexander

[Adhemar St. Martin, Miamis, to Paul Gamelin, Vincennes.]

Miamis, Le 20<sup>e</sup> juin 1788

Mon cher amy

nous sommes arrivé a cette place en assez bon Etat mieux que chapoton nous lavait annoncé. Car sous l'oublie du papier que Cournoyer Devoit remetre a Constant Je crois qu'il ne nous en auroit pas Conte une Carote de tabac Je vous renvoie par Asselin 5 poches, Je vous auroit Envoyé uné livre depoivre mais n'y en a point du tout icy. peut etre cournoyer En apporterat-il Je vous en Envoyerer.

Cy joint l'etat de l'argenterie que j'ay laissé a M. Chapoton vous luy demanderez

150 } 640 grandes Epinglettes  
490 }  
390 petites ditto

12 Brasselets a poignet  
5 grande Croix double  
1 ditto simple  
6 moyenne Croix double  
2 roux d'oreilles  
1 Brasselets a Bras  
4 grandes Epinglettes  
3 noyaux d'argent

sur quoy il a Envoyé un fan [?] d'huile a ma femme seulement je soupconne qu'il En a Eu d'autre et qu'il a Envoyé pour luy même au Detroit qu'importe vous Luy demanderez Compte et qui vous donne son billet de ce qu'il manquera apés la valeur du fan d'lui que nous avons eu rabatu—si toutefois il ne vous remet pas l'argenteries en nature

Vons ferez Compte a asselin de 120 lv.—sur quoix vous rabaterrai 50 lv. que jay payé a la Chine sur le restant vous retienderz votre Compte et reglerer letout avec luy.

Blondiche et moy nous souhaitons Bonnesanté a Madame et la famille au garcon (est y noir donc?) sharp dit n'avoir point parlé de tout cela, mais il en a bien rit) Compliment a nos amis vos voisin et Croyez moy votre

Veritable amy

ADHEMAR STMARTIN.

[Addressed.]

Monsieur Paul Gamelin

[Translation.]

Miamis, June 20, 1788.

My Dear Friend:

We arrived at this place in better shape than Chapoton foretold, for with the forgetting of the paper which Cournoyer was to give to Constant I believe that it will not have cost us a roll of tobacco. I send you by Asselin 5 sacks. I would have sent you a pound of pepper, but there isn't any of it here at all. Perhaps Cournoyer will bring some of it. I will send you some [then].

Here follows the statement of the silverware which I have left to Mr. Chapoton. You will ask it of him.

150 } 640 large pins  
490 }  
390 small pins

12 wrist bracelets

5 large double crosses

1 large single ditto.

6 medium double cross[es].

2 ear-rings

4 large pins

3 silver cores

Added to which he has sent a [?] of oil to my wife. But I suspect that he has another and that he has sent it for himself to Detroit, which means that you must demand an account from him and he must give you his note for what is lacking after the value of the [?] of oil which we have has been subtracted, if, of course, he does not give back the silverware itself.

You will have an account with Asselin for 120 livres—from which you will deduct 50 livres which I have paid [?]. Out of the remainder get back your account and arrange the whole with him.

Blondiche and I wish good health to madame and the family, to the boy (is it then black there?) Sharp said all that was not spoken of but he laughed well at it). Compliments to our friends, your neighbors, and believe me your

Sincere friend,

ADHEMAR ST. MARTIN.

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[George Sharp, Miamis, to Paul Gamelin, Vincennes]

Monr Gamelin

Miamis 7th July [1]789

Mons—

J'ar recu Votre lettre comme un grand parti de Votre ordre etait deja envoyé—je vous envoie ce qui nous avons ici jusqu au Uhais, comme l aux est [illegible] belle, j'envoye aussi d'ordres a Peyette de les envoie par la premiere occasion avec les Drap & Couverts des Mons Chapeau—s'il ne trouve pas de les envoyer il vous avertira—le restant de vos merchandise s'il n'en restant seront envoy par Mr Vigo, comme je part pour Detroit Demain. j'ai envoie un Voiture [?] devant mon Tabac au Uhias, avec ordres aux hommes de donner le preferance a vos pacquets, s'ils peuvent tous amener ils ameneront tous, sils non, Je ai fait [or] dre a Mr. Metter d'envoyer le restant comme l'eau est belle— J'espere que vous n'avez pas refuser les merchandise par rapport qu'on vous n'a pas les envoyé avec la premiere occasion, le plus grand parti de votre ordre n'etoit pas ici, comme vous pouvez scavior en demandant de Mr. St. Marie & cie et bien sachant que on recevra ces articles les premieres jours apres lieur Depart. Je croies que a serve mieux de les envoyer tous ensemble—and si Mr. Bondy avoit retarder comme il m'avoit promi, vous les aurez eu il est longtemps, & tous ceux qu'ils sout parti d'ici au poste peuvent bien vous dire s'ils veulent. comme je me suis interessé pour votre Peltry, ainsi vous me ferez j' espere aucunes reproaches, sil le merchandise n'etoit pas ici daus les temps, je ne peuvoit pas les envoyé—mais apres tout en tous cas que vous ne pourrez sans vous faire tort accepter les merchandise, vous avez que donner toutes a Mr. Robert Makay & le restant del'ordre sera toujours envoie,soit a vous ou a lui comme il vous plaira

Cependant je crois que vous vois bien vos interets et que vous prenderez pas de Merchandises ailleur que de Nous. voyant qui nous cherchons que faciliter notre Praitque, & de lieur donner le Merchandises ici au pris de Detroit sans frais ou risque

Mes Compliments a Mr. Dajenet & Gamelin & je suis avec respect

Votre Serviteur

GEO. SHARP

Faiseur pour le Société de Miamis

Je vous envoie au Uhias a present  
P G une Balot No 5  
une [illegible] Blanc.  
[Addressed.]

Monsieur Paul Gamelin  
Mcht  
Poste St Vincents  
[Translation.]

Miamis, July 7, 1789.

Mr. Gamelin,

Sir:—I received your letter when a large part of your order had already been sent on. I sent you what we have here as far as the Ouia [Ouitenon] as the water is good. I send also orders to Peyette to send them on the first opportunity with the cloth and covers of Mr. Chapoton. If he does not get [an opportunity] to send them he will warn you. The rest of your merchandise, if there is nothing else, will be sent by Mr. Vigo as I start for Detroit to-morrow. I have sent a messenger [?] before my tobacco with orders to the men to give the preference to your packages. If they can take them all they will take them all, if not, I have given orders to Mr. Metter to send the remainder when the water is good. I hope that you have not refused the merchandise on the ground that it was not sent you on the first opportunity. The larger part of your order was not here, as you could know by asking Mr. St. Marie and Company and knowing well that these articles will be received within a few days after their departure I believe it better to send them all together. And if Mr. Bondy had waited as he promised me, you would have had them long ago. And all those who have started out from here to the post [Vincennes] can easily tell you if they wish how I have interested myself in your peltry.

So you will not reproach me, I hope, if the merchandise should not be there in time. I could not send them. But, after all, in any case that you can not, without injury to yourself, accept the goods, you have only to give them all to Mr. Robert Makay and the rest of the order will in every case be sent either to you or to him as it pleases you.

However, I believe that you see your own interests clearly and

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that you will not take goods elsewhere than from us, seeing that we try only to accommodate our customers and to give them goods here at the Detroit price without expense or risk.

My compliments to Messrs. Dajenet & Gamelin. I am with best regards,

Your servant,

GEO. SHARP,

Agent for the Society of Miamis.

I send you at Ouia at present

P G a package No 5

a [ ] white.

[Adhemar St. Martin, Miamis, to Paul Gamelin, Vincennes.]

Miamis, Le 18 Aoust 1789

a Mousieur

Paul Gamelin

Mon cher amy

Je ne say comme cellecy vous parviendra, a tout hazard je vous souhaite a tous une Bonne santé et meilleur réussité dans vos affaires, que parmy nous—comme je pense que vous avez retiré quelques choses de mes debiteurs je vous prie payer a M. Cournoyer trois ou quarte cents francs en peltieries, cette somme avec l'argenterie qu'il a eu l'automne derniere approchra la Balance de mon Compte avec luy, et s'il manqrut quelques choses, aprés compté réglé je luy remetré, cest pour le tabac quil a l'aissé chez moy Lété dernier que j'ay prit pour mon compte, je me flate que vous arrangerez cela avec lui—Si vous avez du tabac envoyer en trois ou quatre Balots Si vous trouvez occation jusqu'au ouias, pour lors je serez a memo de l'avoir en cas de Besoin

Je ne vous parlerez pas de nos affairs car je Crois quelle ne vont mieux que cy devant. Si cependant vous avez de Bonne nouvelle a m'en apprendre faites moy les savior cela flatte toujours Bien des Compliments a vos dames et famille a nos amis commun Brouillet, etc et suis de tout coeur

Votre très humble

serviteur

ADHEMAR ST. MARTIN.

Mon cher amy

[Addressed.]

Au Monsieur  
Monsieur Paul Gamelin  
au poste Vincenne.

[Translation.]

Miamis, August 18, 1789.

To Mr. Paul Gamelin,

My dear friend:—I do not know how this will get to you, but at any chance I wish you all a good health and a better success in your affairs than there is among us. As I think that you have gotten something out of your debtors I pray you to pay Mr. Cournoyer three or four hundred francs in peltries, that sum with the silver which he had last autumn will nearly equal the balance of my account with him, and if he should be short anything after settlement I will send it to him; it is for the tobacco which he left with me last summer which I took for my account, I flatter myself that you will arrange that with him. If you have any tobacco send two or three packages of it if you find occasion, for then I will be able to have it in case of need.

I will not speak to you of our affairs for I think they are not going better than formerly. If, however, you have any good news to tell me, let me know; that is always pleasing. Many compliments to your ladies and family [and] to our common friends, Broulett, etc., and I am with all my heart, my dear friend,

Your very humble servant,  
ADHEMAR ST. MARTIN.

[From Josiah Bleakley, Cahokia, to unknown.]

Cahokia, March 4, 1795.

Dear Sir:

We arrived at Kaskaskias early in the evening of the fourth day from Riviere des Embarras.

The 26th day ulto at daybreak a party of Americans, Sixteen in number, attacked some Miamis Lodges that were encamped within three leagues of this village, hunting and making sugar. They had been there about twenty days and consisted of Eleven men, I know not how many women and children. Seven men were kild and one wounded, also, by accident firing in the Lodges

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two women & one Girl wounded, one of the women are since dead. There was a tolerable Booty taken, Eight horses Six rifles Six packs of Skins and furs, Kettles Axes etc.—The Americans had three men of the Whiteside family wounded, but not dangerously. I am afraid this affair will cause some Indian partys Shortly to turn out, and be very troublesome to the Settlement. No news from Canada nor New Orleans. Trade here very bad, we had great hopes from the Mississipy, letters just arrived worse than last year. The Riviere du Moin has done pretty well. Please present my respectfull Compliments to Mrs. Vanderburgh Mr. Bird Mr. Evans & the Doctor. I am Dr Sir

With Esteem

Your most obt

& afft Servt

JOSIAH BLEAKLEY.

[Unaddressed.]

New Madrid, March 19th, 1798.

Sir:

I received your letter of last Month respecting a House and Lot in St. Vincennes which I claim under a Purchase from John Baptist Barcelow, whose Rect I have in February 1792 for one hundred Pounds french weight of Beaver Fur.

From what I have been able to Learn there is little Doubt but that this Mr. J. B. Barcelow has the Right to Sell, nor does it appear that he has ever sold to any one else; I am told indeed that his Father in his Life Time made some conveyance of this Lot; but his Father had no Authority for this Act and the Son when he arrives to Age must convey his own Property. This Lot was never the Right of the Father, but was conveyed to John Baptist Barcelow; who is now willing to Convey it to me or my Assigns.

If you care to take Mr. Barcelow's Right, I shall be willing to take a hundred & fifty Pounds french Wt. Beaver Fur for it.

I am Sir

Your very Obed. Servt.

RICHD. J. WATERS.